

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Personnel and Equipment of the 23rd Tank
Brigade at Milovice

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 1. The following are officers of the 23rd Tank Brigade [REDACTED] 25X1
at Milovice:

a. Commanding Officer:

Lt. Col. Miloslav Hora (alias
Gottwald), [REDACTED] 25X1
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b. Deputy Commanding Officer:

A Staff Captain whose name is not
known. [REDACTED] 25X1

c. Education Officer:

Staff Capt. Alois Sobeslavsky, a Czech; [REDACTED] 25X1

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d. DOZ Officer:

1st Lt. Fiala, a Czech;

e. Operations Officer:

Major Balcar,

f. Ordnance Officer:

Lt. Zajic,

g. Technical Officer:

Capt. Josef Kufner,

h. Quartermaster:

Capt. Trcka,

i. Paymaster:

Lt. Frebort,

j. 1st Battalion
Commanding officer:

Staff Capt. Josef Munzar, a Czech;

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h. Political Officer:

Staff Lt. Horak,

2. The following officers of the 23rd Tank Brigade are studying in the USSR:

a. Capt. Ladislav Lusil

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b. Capt. Josef Mrazik, a Slovak

c. 1st Lt. Hromadko

3. In the fall of 1949, a preparatory course was introduced in Prague for officers who were to go to the USSR for study. A total of 30 officers from tank corps and tank brigades is reported to have left at the beginning of November 1949 for the Tank Academy in Moscow, where two courses are given:

- a. Two-Year Course. Captains of tank corps are eligible; they receive training as commanding officers of tank brigades and battalions.
- b. Four-Year Course. Eligible students are officers of tank corps, beginning with the rank of 1st lieutenant having an engineering school background. Students are trained to be technical advisers to commanding officers of tank units or engineers for tank factories.

During 1945-47, the term of these courses was three and five years, respectively.

4. The total strength of the 23rd Tank Brigade is 45 officers, 10 non-commissioned officers, and 633 enlisted men. Their equipment consists of the following:

a. Vehicles

	<u>Useable</u>	<u>In Reserve</u>
Tank Cromwell, 75 mm gun	43	20
Tank, Cromwell, 95 mm howitzer	2	---
Tank, Challenger, 75 mm gun	16	8
Tank, Stuart, 37 mm gun	9	3
Tank, St-1, 75 mm gun	6	---
Tank, recovery, Cromwell	1	---
Tank, recovery, Panther, model V	1	---
Bren carrier	13	---
Half-truck	16	4
Scout car, Humber	7	1
Car, White	2	---
Sedans	12	---
Munitions carrier	16	---

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	<u>Useable</u>	<u>In Reserve</u>
Truck, 1½ ton	20	10
Truck 3 ton	40	7
Vehicle, recovery	2	7
Vehicle, PCL tank	1	
Trailer, water tank	1	
b. Tank guns		
75 mm (Cromwell)	63	
76 mm	24	
37 mm	12	
75 mm (St-1)	6	
99 mm howitzer (Cromwell)	2	
c. Mortars, 50 mm	64	
d. Machine guns		
Besa	131	
Browning	48	
Spandau, German make, model 42	7	
Czech make, model 26	133	
e. Pistols, 7.65 mm	500	
f. Hand grenades, per tank	12	
g. Rifles, Mauser, model 98	700	
h. Submachine guns, German, model 42N	700	
i. Signal pistols	135	
j. Flares (white, red, green), per tank	18	
k. Ammunition allotted each individual in tank:		
	<u>Rounds</u>	
1) 75 mm gun	64	
2) 95 mm howitzer	60	
3) 76 mm gun	60	
4) 37 mm gun	120	
5) 75 mm gun (St-1)	42	
6) Medium machine gun	3,250	
7) Machine gun	360	

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	<u>Rounds</u>
8) Submachine gun (2 each tank)	160
9) Pistol	24
10) Mortar, 50 mm	24 (smoke)

5. The total strength of the 1st Tank Company of the 23rd Tank Brigade consists of 2 officers, 1 non-commissioned officer, and 96 enlisted men. They have 110 rifles, 80 submachine guns, model 42N, and 60 7.65 mm pistols. Their vehicles are as follows:

	<u>Useable</u>	<u>Not Useable</u>
a. Tank, Cromwell, 75 mm gun	10	6
b. Tank, Cromwell, 95 mm howitzer	--	1
c. Tank recovery, Cromwell	1	--
d. Tank, Stuart, 37 mm gun	2	1
e. Bren carrier	2	1
f. Slave (sic) carrier	1	--
g. Half-truck	2	--
h. Munitions carrier, Ariel, 500 c.	2	--
i. Jeep	2	--
j. Truck, 1½ ton	1	2
k. Truck, 3 ton	2	2

6. The 2nd Tank Company has 3 officers and 80 enlisted men. It has approximately the same vehicular strength as the 1st Tank Company. However, instead of Cromwell tanks with 95 mm howitzers, Stuart tanks and Cromwell recovery tanks, it has 6 St-1 tanks in combat condition.
7. The 3rd Tank Company has a strength of 2 officers, 1 non-commissioned officer, and 96 enlisted men. It has 16 Challenger tanks, all in combat condition.
8. The 4th Tank Company has 2 officers and 80 enlisted men. Only four of its tanks are in combat condition.
9. The 5th and 6th Tank Companies are skeleton units.

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